

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on March 10 of this year, Russia imposed an export and import ban on United States poultry. Even though an agreement was reached with Russia supposedly on March 30 and they announced that the embargo had been lifted on April 15, the truth is that no American poultry has been shipped into Russia. In fact, over 20,000 metric tons that had been shipped prior to the embargo are still sitting in Russian ports waiting to be unloaded.

In my State of Georgia poultry has a significant impact of some \$10 billion a year, the largest segment of our agricultural economy. Over \$300 million a year are exported. Mr. Speaker, I think we should understand that the Russian embargo is costing American poultry companies \$25 million a day. It is time that this Congress send a message to our trading partners that we expect them to be fair.

Mr. President, as you go to visit with President Putin, I hope you will take the message that this Congress is paying attention and that if Russia wants the lifting of the Jackson-Vanik rules, and if they want admission into the World Trade Organization, it is time to stop playing games with the poultry issue and end the embargo.

#### WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am from a State that made great progress 5 years before we enacted welfare reform, and it is doubly sad for me to see us poised to turn our back on the principles that helped make my State successful.

The House has proposed new mandates which are unfunded. We are going to impose a new approach for work requirements that most successful States have rejected. But most embarrassing for the Republican leadership and the Bush administration is that this Chamber is not even going to be allowed to discuss a real amendment to provide the need for child care that is so essential to successful welfare reform.

Unfortunately, the House is again going to engage in an empty legislative process. The American public deserves better treatment for the critical major issues of our time.

#### WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today we embark on a vigorous debate relative to welfare reform in America. In 1996 in this Chamber, Congress actively debated how to bring financial independence to millions of Americans. Three times it was vetoed by the President of the United States, finally signed into law. Two years later, President Clinton

was bragging about being the author of the welfare reform bill that is now the law of the land.

Millions of Americans are now financially independent, working to bring pride and respect to their families, and today we continue that debate to bring more independence to more Americans. I am proud of that work, and I am proud that this bill contains additional money for child care, job training, and preparing our citizens for the future of this country and its economy.

I will welcome the debate vigorously on this floor today because I believe we are on the right path. My grandmother came from Poland, she was a maid at the Travel Lodge Motel, she worked hard all her life. All she wanted to be is a good citizen and an honest, God-fearing person of this country. I salute people like her, and I know we can do better with the bill on the floor today.

#### AMERICA NEEDS INFORMATION NOW

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we address the Republican welfare bill that is unsettling and unhelpful to America's children, with very limited money for child care, for working mothers, some startling news has come from the White House.

After September 11, we were united to fight terrorism and we remain united. But it is difficult to understand and it is disturbing to hear about the information that was given to the White House regarding the notice of potential hijackings in the United States of America. I believe the American public needs to have now a full accounting of what occurred, of what was known by the White House, and when did the White House know, and what did they do about it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a question of national security. This is a question of the United States of America and the people of America being informed. This is a question of sunlight and shining the light on giving us the opportunity to fight terrorism united. It is of great importance that we have this information now.

#### NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, peace officers around the country are in Washington this week to commemorate and honor the 230 officers who died last year in the line of duty. Yesterday was National Peace Officers Memorial Day, where we paid tribute to the commitment to public safety these officers demonstrate on a daily basis.

As we all know, September 11 stands out as one of the most tragic days in

American history and law enforcement history. We lost 72 police officers on that Tuesday, the largest loss of law enforcement personnel in a single day ever.

While September 11 offered an extreme glimpse of law enforcement service and sacrifice, acts of heroism and valor are performed every day by police officers across our Nation. Mr. Speaker, 230 police officers who died last year represent the sixth deadliest year in law enforcement history.

Peace officers in every community have an admirable record of service and sacrifice, yet too many Americans lack a true understanding and appreciation of law enforcement's worth. That is why I worked 2 years ago to establish the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C. Once construction is complete, the museum will highlight the proud history of the law enforcement profession and educate the public about the dangers and importance of the job.

Unlike most other jobs, peace officers face unprecedented risks while bravely protecting our communities and our freedoms. I hope colleagues will join me in expressing our gratitude for the work these men and women perform.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, our country is aging. The baby boomer generation is retiring soon. I am part of that generation, and more will be retiring.

Social Security will become a necessity for our seniors. Republicans are trying to bankrupt Social Security, so we will have no choice but to privatize, I say privatize; but privatizing forces benefit cuts, increases risks, and removes the guarantee that Social Security will be there for seniors when they need it.

I believe that working families have earned a secured retirement. Without Social Security, how will our seniors pay for medication, rent, food? They are on a fixed income. Privatizing Social Security breaks a promise to working families that if you work hard and pay into the system, no matter how rich or poor, Social Security will be there for your retirement when it is necessary.

Privatizing Social Security, especially for hard-working minorities, women, and working family folks will mean less savings for them. It is time that we start caring about the 95 percent of the population that do not have a trust fund, who live on a check-by-check basis, feed their families, and pay for expenses with no money to save or invest.

#### SAUDI ARABIA AND TERRORISM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1